

Subject No. 9.
Revision of Forms
of Village accounts.

Summary of discussion.—The existing forms of village accounts should be printed and Shanbhogs' stationery allowance should be increased.

Dewan's reply.—This is not a subject of general interest to be discussed here. Shanbhogs may represent by petition.

Subject No. 10.
Disposal of dar-
khasts for land for
cultivation.

Summary of discussion.—The present rule enjoining sale of lands required for cultivation must be modified. An exceptionally favorable season often enables a raiyat to cultivate more land than he ordinarily holds. But the present procedure entails so much delay in his getting it, that the season is often lost before he gets it. The loss is both to raiyat and Government. Therefore:—

Land should not be sold by auction—

- (1) merely because it was resigned within the past three years, (no good land and none which contains trees or buildings of any marketable value are resigned to Government)
- (2) nor because it contains some trees though of no value or comparatively of trifling value,
- (3) nor even when there are trees or buildings. In such cases it is better to fix a price and give the land promptly than lose a whole season and incur the loss to the food-stock of the country which that implies.

Let the rule be that only land on which any Government Revenue has been remitted shall be sold by auction and no other.

Mr. Ghendrashekaraiya (Landholder and R. M. from Nagamangala Taluk) pointed out that the delay was particularly great where a large survey number had to be subdivided. The process often took two or three years, and then notwithstanding that the applicant had incurred the trouble and expense of erecting the boundary marks and assisting the Surveyors in sub-division, the land was sold merely because some one who never cared for the land before, coveted it after it had been divided and demarcated. At the sale, a stranger was the highest bidder. This was hard on the first applicant. The rule should be that the first applicant in such cases should have the land for an upset price. This would enable poor people to acquire land. Sales by auction shut them out and obliged them to be tenants where they could otherwise be proprietors. *Mr. Nagappa* (Patel and R. M. from Turuvekere Sub-Taluk) pointed out that the rule to grant lands to first applicants often afforded temptation to tamper with the dates recorded on applications for land. *Messrs. Bhima Rao and Venkata-ramaiya* (Shanbhogs and R. Ms. from Mulbagal and Malur Taluks respectively) pointed out that under existing rules the cheapest land, sold and bought with the utmost expedition, could not be had within twenty days of application,